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JRNL 340.01: Intermediate Audio

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JRNL 340

INTERMEDIATE AUDIO-FALL 2018

CRN 71062-Syllabus-Subject to Change

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course builds on your introductory audio experience and works toward professional-quality reporting and storytelling with sound. We will work closely with KBGA College Radio this semester to create and produce a 5pm live broadcast. You will be the reporters, writers, producers and anchors of these shows. The assignments you complete for class are intended to be used in these broadcasts. You will work closely with KBGA staff to come up with a format and style. I encourage you to think about the audience and come up with a program you think will keep listeners. In case you haven't listened in-- **KBGA 89.9fm.**

You will also produce two radio news packages and one final multi-media documentary or feature piece, with the primary focus being audio. One of your produced pieces will require you to work specifically on a diversity issue or to report on/from a diverse community. Good reporters need a variety of perspectives in all their reporting and this will force you to get out of your bubble.

The course focus will be on WRITING because writing is what makes audio stories great, no matter what sound you've recorded. I'll expect you to write clearly and conversationally. You will be required to re-write stories and scripts until they meet professional standards and are ready for air. You'll need to get out in the field and get comfortable talking with total strangers. You'll need to work to get great natural sound and use it effectively in your storytelling.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester the successful JRNL 340 student will:

- Demonstrate sound news judgment and find strong story ideas.

- Understand the unique quality and importance of radio writing and be able to draft solid scripts.
- Become proficient in gathering and editing audio.
- Improve voicing techniques.
- Produce several types of multitrack pieces that blend creativity and the rigors of good journalism.
- Complete all that's required to submit pieces for this class to air on KBGA and be submitted to other outside outlets.
- Critically listen to radio news and features from a variety of sources, including stations, national shows and podcasts.
- Meet deadlines.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Students in good standing as Journalism majors are expected to know the basics of gathering sound and writing for radio. They should be familiar with Audacity audio editing software and be able to learn Adobe Audition.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- USB Flash Drive dedicated to this class.
- Card readers for the Marantz recorder.
- AA batteries.

EQUIPMENT ON LOAN

The J-school is loaning professional-quality audio kits to this class for the semester, which you will share with at least one other person. That means you

do not have to go through checkout. It also means you remain responsible for your team's kit. If it's damaged or lost, you will have to replace it. A complete Marantz kit is \$1,000. You'll be signing checkout forms that will be kept on file by me and you must return all equipment in working order on a date TBA.

**** (need to check it out?) And here's a tip:** In the basement of Don Anderson Hall are plenty of unused lockers. Get a combination lock. Share the combination! Text your teammate(s) when you plan to use the equipment. Once you're finished, load the audio files into your computer and flash drive. Then put the kit back and text that you've done so. This way you don't have to bike all over Missoula to hunt each other down!

ABOUT MOODLE/UM ONLINE

All reading, listening and production assignments and deadlines will be posted on the class Moodle page, which can be accessed by entering a Net ID at moodle.umt.edu.

TEXTBOOK AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

There's no required text for this class. But there will be required readings via handouts and links on Moodle.

LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

We'll do a lot of listening and talking about what we hear during class, but you'll also need to listen to pieces outside of class and come prepared to talk about them. You may also be asked to share audio stories with the class and should be prepared to lead discussions about them.

PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS

All final mixes must be **emailed to me as an attached MP3**. The story script must also be attached. Deadlines are 1pm on the date indicated. **Due dates may change and will be finalized in class and posted to Moodle**. In most circumstances, a failure to meet deadlines will result in a failing grade.

Assignments: (See Major assignments document for more information)

Voxpops

Points: 50

KBGA Newscasts & Interviews

Points: 200

Class Participation

Points: 50

News Story I

Points: 150

News Story II

Points: 150

Documentary

Points: 400

GRADING

Letter grades will not be used except as the final grade (per requirement). The equivalents are as follows:

A: 93-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69
D: 63-66
D-: 60-62
F: 59 or lower

ATTENDANCE

I expect you to be in every class. If you must miss class because you are *really* sick, notify me at least an hour before class via email. Talk to me if you have a situation or University business, but talk to me BEFORE you miss class. You may not miss class to conduct work for this class or any other class or extra-curricular activity. If you have two unexcused absences, your final grade will drop by 10%. Three or more and you fail the class.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Students with disabilities and/or special needs should notify the instructor at his or her earliest convenience and contact Disabilities Services for Students, umt.edu/dss/ or x2243.

- Academic Misconduct and the **Student Conduct Code**: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php
- **DOUBLE-DIPPING**: No element (recordings, story ideas, scripts, etc.) for another class can fulfill assignments for this class without **DOCUMENTED ACCEPTANCE** from instructors of all involved courses. Failure to do so will result in failure of that assignment.

- **PLAGIARIASM and ETHICS:** Have pride in your work and banish the idea of turning in something written or recorded by someone else and presented as your own. Writing a script, asking someone to read your words and then pawning it off as legitimate journalism is also a big, fat no. Penalties range from failing this class to expulsion from school.

- If you are a JRNL graduate student OR undergraduate student admitted to the professional program, your security code has already been generated for the semester and your GrizCard has already been activated to enter the front doors of DAH. You will have continual access (during the semester) to DAH until you graduate or drop from the Professional Program. If you have forgotten or misplaced your six-digit code, please see Cameron in DAH201 or call her at 243-4001 to obtain it.

JRNL 340-INTERMEDIATE AUDIO

FALL 2018

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Meets M/W 1:00-2:20p DAH 316, 305, 306

Monday, August 27

Welcome and class overview

Listen: Voxpops

Assignment: Come up with two questions/prompts for your own voxpop

Wednesday, August 29

Listen: KBGA News 2017

KBGA newscast concept and execution

- Audience

- Content

- Format

- Production elements

Review and approve Voxpop ideas

Equipment review and checkout

Due: Voxpop ideas

Due: Sign up for two KBGA shifts for Sept./Oct-1 news, 1 interview

Assignment: Write, record and produce voxpop-1:30 minimum Due Sept. 5

Monday, Sept. 3

(No class Labor Day)

Wednesday, Sept. 5

What's news worthy? Developing your news judgement
Writing on deadline
Using the AP
Writing to the radio actuality (bite)
Lab: Anchor and tech newscasts
Due: Voxpops-script and audio
Assignment: Find two ideas for news story I

Monday, Sept. 10

FCC rules & regulations
KBGA mission & culture
Pitch: News story 1-assigned
Tour KBGA
Assignment: Report News story 1 –First draft due Sept. 19

Wednesday, Sept. 12

Producing a radio newscast
Writing news copy
Writing news readers with actualities (bites)
Using the AP
Lab: Write a newscast in class. Anchor news including one piece of sound.
Assignment: Report News story 1 –First draft due Sept. 19

Monday, Sept. 17

Newscasts at KBGA begin
Conducting the live interview
Listen: Radio interviews

Assignment: Report News Story 1 –First draft due Sept. 19
Assignment: Write questions for Wed. interviews

Wed., Sept. 19

Lab: Conduct live interviews
Due: First draft script and audio edit News Story 1
Assignment: Re-write & edit News Story 1-Due Sept. 26

Monday, Sept. 24

Review week one newscasts
Writing review

Assignment: Write and report News Story 1-final due Wed, Sept. 26

Assignment: Two ideas for News Story 2-due Wed., Sept. 26

Wed., Sept. 26

Review Live Interviews
Story Pitch-News Story 2 and assign
Due: News Story 1-Final

Monday, Oct. 1

Intro to Audio Editing
Assignment: Report News Story 2-First draft due Wed. Oct. 10

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Audio Editing Part 2
Assignment: Report News Story 2-First draft due Wed. Oct. 10

Monday, Oct. 8

Listen and edit together: News Wrap I
Assignment: Report News Story 2-First draft due Wed. Oct. 10

Wed., Oct. 10

Vocal workshop
Due: News Story 2-First draft

Monday, Oct. 15

Crafting the radio feature
Listen: Audio feature writing
Assignment: Re-write and edit News Story 2

Wed., Oct. 17

Crafting the radio feature
Listen: Radio feature editing
Due: News Story 2-Final

Monday, Oct. 22

Listen & Critique: KBGA News and interviews
Assignment: Prepare pitch for final project topics

Wed., Oct. 24

Discuss: Final project options
Assignment: Prepare pitch for final project topics

Monday, Oct. 29

Listen & Critique-News Story 2
Assignment: Prepare pitch for final project topics

Wed. Oct. 31

Final project discussion & brainstorming
Due: Story pitch for final project & assigned

Monday, Nov. 5

Radio Sports
Podcast Sports
Guests:
Assignment: Write and report final project-first draft due Nov. 19

Wed., Nov. 7

Radio News
Podcast News
Guests:

Assignment: Write and report final project-first draft due Nov. 19

Monday, Nov. 12-Veterans Day, No Class

Wed., Nov. 14

Listen: Local podcasts
Listen: National podcasts
Listen: International podcasts

Assignment: Write and report final project-first draft due Nov. 19

Monday, Nov. 19

Open office hours for script/edit review, other help.

Due: First draft script and audio for final project

Assignment: Rewrite & edit final project-Due Dec. 5

Wed., Nov. 21 (no class-Thanksgiving travel day)

Monday, Nov. 26

Bringing diversity to your audio storytelling

Ethical issues in audio storytelling

Guests:

Assignment: Rewrite and edit final project-Due Dec. 5

Wed., Nov. 28

Owning, managing and promoting radio

Ethical issues in audio storytelling

Guests:

Assignment: Rewrite and edit final project-Due Dec. 5

Monday, Dec. 3

Listen: Best of the best in current audio storytelling

Assignment: Rewrite and edit final project-Due Dec. 5

Wed., Dec. 5

Write and produce live show for KBGA next week.

Listen: All final projects

Due: Final projects

Monday, Dec. 11

Some time during this week, we will have a live program on KBGA where the (worthy) final projects will be aired. This will be considered your finals meeting.